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Milo Rediger Writings & Addresses

Milo Rediger

1-20-1972

Message re: Music Building Fire

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Taylor University

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Message Re: MUSIC BUILDING FIRE

January 20, 1972
Sent to Mr Cleveland
1-25-72

Most of all, we are grateful that there was no loss of life and that there were no injuries, either among our students or the firemen. The spirit and morale of the entire campus family have been tremendously encouraging, especially through the many expressions of confidence in the Taylor program, through generous contributions, letters of understanding, and offers of various kinds of help and equipment.

In our master planning it has long been realized that this facility, built in 1911, was one that needed to be replaced, at least long range. Optimum use has been made of the space that the building provided and even though it was inadequate in many ways, it was being used very efficiently by the music faculty and students and by the speech and drama people. ^A The new fine arts center has been a high priority for some time in our planning, but it now becomes urgent.

^{The} ~~A~~ music program for the students will continue, not without inconvenience but certainly without interruption. By some decentralized distribution around the campus, teaching studios and practice rooms will be provided and the program will proceed as usual throughout the second semester. We have no doubt that we will be able to maintain the level of music education and performance which represents our National Association of Schools of Music membership expectations.

Do continue to remember us in your prayers. Your expressions of personal concern have been particularly meaningful and have challenged me greatly in the past few days. With God's help and your cooperation we will find the right way through this emergency.

Milo A. Rediger
President

Twelve years and four days ago I was here in this same place to make the same kind of announcement. Old Main had burned during the night and classrooms, laboratories, offices, and museum were completely destroyed.

First, I want to express appreciation for student conduct and cooperation. It was a remarkably reassuring experience and we were very proud of all of you. While I'll not mention names, some students certainly deserve extra credit, especially regarding discovery of the fire, reporting it in the proper way and clearing the building of people.

I also want to add a word about the excellent service of the firemen. This goes for many departments from the surrounding towns, but mainly for the Upland men who remained on duty until three this morning.

News reports may or may not be accurate because my comments had to be made while the fire was burning and no one could make final estimate of the damage. It seems quite certain that the fire started in the electric wiring and the lighting controls between the Shreiner Auditorium floor and the roof of the building. The building and contents are covered by insurance but amounts are still to be determined. The question of any possible salvage of the building space is under investigation now by a structural engineer. Obviously most of the equipment and furniture was destroyed by water damage if not by fire.

Let me assure you that our academic program will not be seriously disrupted. We have much to be thankful for. There was no loss of life. We have our faculty and we will find spaces in which they can work. Instruction and practice will go on at different places on the campus until more permanent-temporary arrangements can be announced for second semester.

Thanks again for your wonderful cooperation!